



The Green Thumb

A Newsletter of Extension Horticultural Activities and Events
For York County Extension Volunteers

Vol.4, Issue 4
April 1, 2003

Calendar Of Events

May 3, 9am-12pm	Learning Garden Plant Sale
May 6-9	Charleston, SC Educational Trip (Contact Eleanor Hill at captmi@cox.net)
May 15, 6:30pm	On-Site Landscape Diagnostic Clinic, Location TBA
May 20, 9:30am	Monthly Programming meeting YORK HALL / garden visit
May 21, 6:30pm	On-Site Landscape Diagnostic Clinic, Location TBA
May 27, 10am	Hort Therapy, contact Seena Grzeskowiak at grzswald@aol.com or 898-6553
May 29, 6:30pm	4-H Chrysanthemum Program Meeting, YC Extension Office
May 31, 9am-12pm	TAP Field Day, Norfolk Botanical Garden, Rose Garden Hall; Reg. Req.
June 1, afternoon	Master Gardener Picnic
June 5-8	MG College, Blacksburg, VA
June 12, 7-9pm	TAP Seminar – <i>Tree Nutrition & Fertilization</i> ; NBG – Holly Room; Reg. Req.
June 18-21	International Master Gardener Conference, www.mastergardener.osu.edu/imgc2003
June 30 – July 4	4-H Summer Residential Camp
July 10, 7-9pm	TAP Seminar, <i>Tree Pruning</i> , NBG – Holly Room; Reg. Req.
Aug. 14, 7-9pm	TAP Seminar, <i>Protecting Trees</i> , NBG – Holly Room; Reg. Req.
Sep. 11, 7-9pm	TAP Seminar, <i>Diagnosing Tree Problems</i> , NBG – Holly Room; Reg. Req.
Oct. 9, 7-9pm	TAP Seminar, <i>Tree Health Care</i> , NBG – Holly Room; Reg. Req.
Nov. 13, 7-9pm	TAP Seminar, <i>Tree Hazards</i> , NBG – Holly Room; Reg. Req.

Thursdays Work/Learn Day in the Learning Garden 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

For additions/corrections to the Calendar of Events contact Jody at 890-4940 or Wanda Turner at 898-0653, e-mail: wgt00@cox.net The deadline for the Green Thumb is ALWAYS the 15th of the month, no exception.

E-mail changes: If you have changes to any of the methods of communication to you please notify Jody. Jody will pass the word. We want to keep in contact with you. These changes will be posted to the weekly e-mails and will be in the Green Thumb.

Master Gardener Mission Statement: *Our mission, as trained volunteers in partnership with the York County, Virginia Cooperative Extension Agent, is to provide horticultural educational opportunities to the public through research-based horticultural programs and activities to enhance our environment, lives and community.*

www.ext.vt.edu

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Virginia Cooperative Extension programs and employment are open to all, regardless, of race, color, religion, sex, age, veteran status, national origin, disability, or political affiliation. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.

Notes from Jim

Subscribe to the Web-Site

Be sure to go to www.yorkcounty.gov/vce and subscribe to the site. It's a simple procedure and you will be guided step by step through the process. This is one more small step to simplifying communications.

Hort Therapy

The first scheduled Hort Therapy Session will be at York Convalescent Center, April 22 at 10:30 a.m. Anyone wishing to lend a helping hand will need to arrive at 10:00 a.m., for setup. Joanne, a 15-year volunteer for the center, or Charlene, the Activity Director will be assisting us.

These sessions have been scheduled for the fourth Tuesday of every month. The whole session should last approximately 1 1/2 - 2 hours total.

Also, if anyone washes clothes (who doesn't)? Those big bottles of laundry soap have perfect sized tops -- we sure could use them for tiny little floral arrangements! So, collect 'em if you can please. Speaking of flowers . . . I've spoken with Joyce at Yorktown Flower Shoppe and with a 2-day advance notice (isn't that great)! They will donate flowers. Of course, if you have something beautiful in your own garden to share, please feel free to share. If anyone has a question, wants to volunteer or has a super-Dee-duper great idea, please feel free to contact me at: grzswald@aol.com. Please remember to bring along any tools of the trade that will be helpful. We already have Oasis, containers etc.

Happy spring! Seena

Library Resources

Did you enjoy the Horticultural Extravaganza? Need more info on your favorite exhibit or class? Visit the Extension Office Library, which has close to 400 books. Some new books have just been added: topics on landscaping, gardening with stone, trough gardens, basic gardening, roses, iris' and more. Please sign out books in The Master Gardener Desk Reference and return & sign in after two weeks, so others can also enjoy. Thank you and happy reading!

Janis Erickson, Library Resources Coordinator

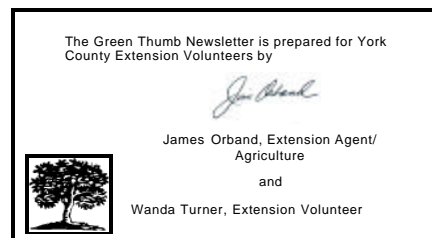
Master Gardener Phone Duty

If you have specific dates that you would like to volunteer for phone duty in the extension office, please contact Harry Haley (hmcmhaley@nfx.net / 898-1205). He will be co-ordinating those dates for the months of April, May, and June.

Welcome to the Garden

We'd like to welcome all those interested in helping out with the Learning Garden to come take the grand tour. Choose your area and meet the Master Gardeners who are working there already. Bring your enthusiasm and spirit of adventure. The fun starts at 9:30am on Thursday, **April 10**, with refreshments being served afterwards. Call Carol Brower (988-0231) or Diane Short (867-8988) to pre-register.

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Two Items for Sale

Corona Trowel

You can order a Corona Comfort Trowel for around \$5.00. The specifics of this trowel are: blade length is 6 1/4", blade width is 3," the overall length is 12 1/2" and the weight is 0.5 lb. The Corona Trowel is a one-piece aluminum alloy tool that has a padded rubber handle. Several garden businesses retail this trowel for \$10.00.

The Peninsula Master Gardener Training Committee has decided to use this trowel as the 2003 Class Speakers' gift and to make these trowels available, in mid-July, 2003, to all Master Gardeners. A firm price will be established after shipping and tax has been added.

Common Plants of the Peninsula

The "Common Plants of the Peninsula" booklet will also be offered to the 2003 Master Gardener trainees and to all Master Gardeners for \$20.00. So now you will have the opportunity to own it for your reference library. The last time this booklet was printed was June 2000, and this is the updated version of the "Ten Most Common Plants" booklet. A copy of the "Common Plants of the Peninsula" is in the Extension Office library if you would like to review it.

This new edition has 16 color plates and 89 pages. It describes (in detail) 73 zone 7(b) plants: annuals, bulbs, grasses, ground covers, perennials, shrubs (deciduous), shrubs (evergreen), trees (small and large deciduous), trees (small and large evergreen) and vines. Availability of this booklet will be late October 2003.

If you are interested in either the trowel and/or the "Most Common Plants of the Peninsula," please notify me at (parkerew@aol.com/868-0496) and I will put your name on the list.

Evelyn Parker

Sunshine Fund

In March of 2000, the Master Gardeners decided to start a Sunshine Fund. The purpose of which is to let MGs know that other MGs are thinking about them in times of illness or death of a family member. In order to have funds on hand when needed, collections are taken at Programming Meetings and General Membership Meetings. These funds are used to send a gift and / or a card to MGs.

The fund began 2003 with a balance of \$74.30. Over the course of the year, \$103.55 has been collected and \$145.18 has been spent. Our current balance is \$32.67. The gift costs are around \$30.00 depending on the cost of delivery. If you do not attend the meetings and you want to make a donation, you may send me a check (110 Wind Forest Lane, Yorktown, Va. 23692) or give it to me anytime. If you have any extra cards you may donate them also. If there are any questions or suggestions concerning the Sunshine Fund please don't hesitate to contact me. The guidelines for sending gifts are provided below.

Gifts given for:

- Operation
- Long term illness
- Birth of a baby
- Death of a spouse or child

Type of gifts given:

- Dish Garden
- Seasonal flower or arrangement
- Bird feeder
- Bird house
- Other types of gifts that the person may like

Your help is needed... If you know of an illness or a death in the family of any MG please let me know. My email address is maryfrancesbaker@hotmail.com and my phone is 898-6773. I would rather have several people tell me about someone than miss someone.

Mary Frances Baker (Sunshine Lady)

Hours

- ALWAYS keep a copy of the time sheets you turn in
- Mileage is for your purposes only--I don't need it
- Travel time counts
- If you include your email address on your time sheet I will email you a report of your hours after I enter them
- Several folks are missing hours from last fall. If you request your total hours, I'll email you a report back that you can compare totals, or I'll leave a copy for you in the office.

Terry Hanson

2002 YCMG Interns

We have almost completed a quarter of your first year as YCMGs. Some of you have been working (and enjoying yourselves) on your 50 hours payback and some of you are already York County Master Gardeners. Congratulations!

As you know, January through March are the busy months with the Pruning training and clinics and Hort Extravaganza. April and May will also be interesting and busy with On-Site Diagnostic Clinics, Hort Therapy, and Lawn Team Advance Training. The Learning Garden continues all year for those who like working on that project. But as the months go by, the number of projects and clinics start to taper off. June through August only have Lawn Clinics going on. After September, the program opportunities primarily consist of monthly programming meetings until our last meeting in mid-December. Lawn clinics are offered in July, August and September.

You sounded so interested and enthusiastic at your interviews and during the course. You can continue having that feeling through participation in the YCMG program. Why am I telling you this? Because some of you have not started entering any hours or are not yet paying back your 50 hours. As noted above, the opportunities to attend meeting, clinics, and work on projects is slowly eroding and soon you will be left without the possibility of joining us as a Master Gardener. Remember, your 50 hours need to be paid back by November 2003 if you are to successfully complete the program and earn your official MG Badge!

To those YCMG Interns who have not started paying back or those who have very few hours paid back, make a "payback 50 hour" plan so you will not see your dream disappear. If you need help, you can contact Beth Saunders, Unit Coordinator, who can give you information on up coming projects. Beth can be reached at Saunders52@earthlink.net or 875-1583.

Evelyn Parker

Volunteer Appreciation Day

The York County Board of Supervisors is showing their appreciation for the time that you have so generously given to the community. They invite you and your family to a fun-filled celebration on Saturday, **April 5** from 11:30am to 2:00pm.

Make reservations now to come out and enjoy.....

- An "All-You-Can-Eat" catered picnic lunch
- Two Half-hour shows by the "Dazzlin' Image Cloggers"
- Horse and Pony rides for the entire family
- The 27 foot tall inflatable "Tsunami Wave" slide
- The giant Pirate Ship moon bounce
- Carnival Games and Prizes
- Air Brush Face Painting
- Balloon figures for the children

Don't forget – pre-registration is required. Call 890-3920 by March 28. If it is nice picnic weather, it will be held at Chisman Creek Park on Wolf Trap Road. If too cold, windy or wet, it will be indoors at Grafton Middle School. Call the hotline at 890-3920 on the day of the event for the location.

Paradise Nursery

Did you enjoy the talk given by Sybil Mays at our December General Meeting? If so, then you may be interested in a day trip to her family owned fruit farm, Paradise Nursery. A trip is in the works to visit hers and two other nurseries in the area. The tentative date is **April 29th** and carpools will be leaving the YC Extension Office early that morning. (Exact time to be announced later) For a refresher on what is available at Sybil's nursery go to her web-site at www.paradisenuresery.com. Sybil tells us that the strawberries should be ready to pick at this time. For more information on this trip, contact Terry Hanson (hanson5t@cox.net / 872-9639) or Jackie Lohr (rlahr@cox.net / 898-5741).

Learning Garden Plant Sale

The Learning Garden is busy preparing for the May 3rd plant sale. The following are some that we could still use. If you have or can get any of these, please label and bring them to the Learning Garden.

Shasta Daisies	Hydrangea	Heuchera	Ferns
Phlox	Hostas	Nippon Daisies	Veronica
Monks Hood	Hellebores	Columbine	Camellias
Corydalis	Echinacea – Purple Cone Flower		

Volunteers are welcome to come help organize the plants on Thursday, May 1. Contact Diane Short or Carol Brower if you are interested.

It is a good idea to take pictures of your plants while in bloom, so that plant sale customers can see what the flowers will look like. The snapshots can then be displayed for all to see. Harry Haley

Other Local MG Plant Sales

Are you curious?

April 25	Chesapeake Master Gardeners (call 382-6348)
May 10	Virginia Beach Master Gardener's Plant Sale at Farmers Market (www.vbmg.org)
May 24	Hampton Master Gardeners at Bluebird Gap Farm (Jill Ruhl 851-8300) rain date May 25

Charleston

Come along on an educational trip to visit the beautiful gardens of Charleston, South Carolina. Plans are in the works and we have a tentative schedule arranged. Departure from the York County Extension Office is May 6, and we will be returning May 9. If you are interested contact Eleanor Hill at captmi@pinn.net or 868-8646.

- May 6 Leave 7am from YC Extension Office
Reception that evening after arrival in Charleston
- May 7 Tour private gardens
- May 8 Middleton Place; Magnolia Plantation; Cypress Gardens (if time allows)
- May 9 Brookgreen Gardens; Return to York County

The following web sites might be of interest. www.magnoliaplantation.com, www.brookgreen.org, www.middletonplace.org

Arbor Day

Arbor Day is a national celebration that encourages tree planting and tree care. The first Arbor Day was celebrated in the state of Nebraska in 1872. This was in response to a state proclamation urging settlers and homesteaders in that state to plant trees that would provide shade, shelter, fruit, fuel, and beauty for the largely treeless plains.

Founded by J. Sterling Morton, National Arbor Day is celebrated each year on the last Friday in April. In each individual state it is celebrated according to planting times.

On that first Arbor Day, more than one million trees were planted in Nebraska's communities and on its farms. J. Sterling Morton, editor of the *Nebraska City News*, helped the idea spread to neighboring states and eventually to all of the United States and many other nations.

In Virginia, we will celebrate Arbor Day this year on April 11.

The following are some statistics on just how important trees are in a community setting

- "The net cooling effect of a young, healthy tree is equivalent to ten room-size air conditioners operating 20 hours a day." -U.S. Department of Agriculture
- "Trees can boost the market value of your home by an average of 6 or 7 percent." -Dr. Lowell Ponte
- "Landscaping, especially with trees, can increase property values as much as 20 percent." -Management Information Services/ICMA
- "One acre of forest absorbs six tons of carbon dioxide and puts out four tons of oxygen. This is enough to meet the annual needs of 18 people." -U.S. Department of Agriculture
- "There are about 60-to 200- million spaces along our city streets where trees could be planted. This translates to the potential to absorb 33 million more tons of CO2 every year, and saving \$4 billion in energy costs." -National Wildlife Federation
- "Trees properly placed around buildings can reduce air conditioning needs by 30 percent and can save 20 - 50 percent in energy used for heating." -USDA Forest Service
- "Shade from trees could save up to \$175 per year (per structure) in air conditioning costs." -Dr. Lowell Ponte
- "Healthy, mature trees add an average of 10 percent to a property's value." -USDA Forest Service
- "The planting of trees means improved water quality, resulting in less runoff and erosion. This allows more recharging of the ground water supply. Wooded areas help prevent the transport of sediment and chemicals into streams." -USDA Forest Service
- "In laboratory research, visual exposure to settings with trees has produced significant recovery from stress within five minutes, as indicated by changes in blood pressure and muscle tension." -Dr. Roger S. Ulrich Texas A&M University

For more information go to www.arborday.org

Japanese Pieris

For those of you who attended the programming meeting, March 11, you were able to see the beautiful plant specimen that Trudy White brought in. It is sometimes called “Lily of the Valley” shrub or “Japanese Andromeda”. The following is information taken directly from the Virginia Cooperative Extension web-site about the *Pieris japonica*.

Foliage: Evergreen broadleaf
Height: 9 to 12 feet
Spread: 6 to 8 feet
Shape: Bushy

Zone: 5 to 8
Light: Partial shade to full sun
Moisture: Moist
Soil Type: Sandy, loam, or clay
pH Range: 3.7 to 5.5

This shrub has hanging clusters of pink or white flowers and blooms in early spring. New foliage is bronze in spring, but turns glossy green for the rest of the year. Suggested uses for this plant include border, foundation, massing, or specimen plant.

Planting Notes:

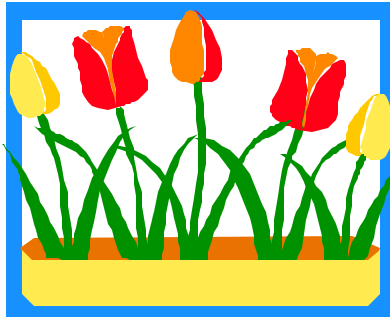
Transplant using plants that have balled and burlapped roots or those that are container grown.
Plant in well-drained, acid soil, which has been supplemented with peat moss or organic matter.
Place in a location that is protected from winter sun and harsh winter winds.

Care:

Tends to get leggy and needs pruning to keep it bushy.
Clip off old flower heads after flowers fade in spring. This allows new flower buds to develop for the following year.

Problems:

Lacebug sucks leaf juices, causing foliage to turn yellow to brown.
Red spider mites, leaf spots, and dieback are other problems.
Root rot may occur in poorly drained soil.



We're on the Web!

www.yorkcounty.gov/vce

APRIL 2003

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1 9:30am MG Train. Cmte. Mtg. Yorkminster 9:30am-12pm Using Office Res.	2	3 9:30am Learning Garden Committee Meeting – Extension Office	4	5 11:30am– 2 Y C Volunteer Appreciation Day (see April article)
6 Williamsburg Garden Symposium _____→	7 Colonial Williamsburg	8 9:30am Programming Meeting St. Luke's	9	10 “Welcome to the Garden” (see April article) 7-9pm TAP Sem. NBG Holly Rm.	11 Virginia Arbor Day	12
13	14	15 7:00pm Channel 46 Recognizing Terry Hanson	16 6:30pm Onsite Landscape Diagnostic Clinic Location to be announced	17	18 12-1pm HearSay Gardening FM89.5	19
20	21	22 10:00am Hort. Therapy York Conv. Center (see April article)	23	24	25 National Arbor Day	26 8:00am Gardening 2003 CNU Science Bldg. (see March article)
27	28 6:30 pm Onsite Landscape Diagnostic Clinic Location to be announced	29 Paradise Nursery Day Trip (see April article)	30			